

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 6994

INFO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T BEIRUT 13625

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOK, LE

SUBJECT: POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE LEBANON

1. EMBASSY BELIEVES IT WILL HELP SITUATION HERE IF
USG MAKES ANOTHER PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT SOONEST CLARIFYING ITS
POLICY OF SUPPORT FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF PRIME
MINISTER KARAME AND HIS CURRENT EFFORTS TO BRING A
CEASEFIRE AND POLITICAL DIALOGUE TO THE LEBANESE.
WE BELIEVE SUCH STATEMENT WOULD HELP GET THE WORD
OVER TO HARDLINE CHRISTIAN SIDE IN EVEN MORE UN-
EQUIVOCAL FASHION THAN RECENT STATEMENTS IN DEPART-
MENT. (FYI: IT WILL ALSO HELP STEADY KARAME, WHO
IS AGAIN REPORTED TO BE REELING AND READY TO RESIGN
WITH HIS LATEST CEASEFIRE BEING BROKEN - ACCORDING
TO OUR INFORMATION BY PHALANGE FORCES FIRST.)

2. ADDITIONALLY, EMBASSY RECOMMENDS DEPARTMENT PROPOSE
MEDIATION ROLE TO FRENCH (AND BRITISH) AS REPRESENTA-
TIVES OF EUROPEAN COMMUNITY. EUROPEANS, PARTICULARLY
THE FRENCH, HAVE EXCELLENT CREDENTIALS WITH CHRISTIAN
MARONITE RIGHT WING. THEY ALSO MAINTAIN ABILITY TO
TALK TO SYRIANS AND PALESTINIANS. WE BELIEVE THEY
MIGHT WELCOME USG SUGGESTION THEY PLAY SUCH ROLE IN
PART OF MIDDLE EAST SCENE, EVEN IF IT IS NOT THE

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CENTRAL ARAB-ISRAELI ARENA -- AT LEAST YET. (FYI:

NEW REPORTS WE CONTINUE TO RECEIVE OF POSSIBLE INFILTRATION SYRIAN FIGHTING MEN IN ZAHLE AREA LEND URGENCY TO NEED KEEP SYRIANS INVOLVED IN PROCESS OF POLITICAL SETTLEMENT SO THAT THEY DO NOT HAVE TO RESORT TO INDIRECT MILITARY MEASURES AS RESULT OF ESCALATED FIGHTING NOT ONLY IN BEIRUT BUT THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY. WE NOTE ALONG THAT LINE THAT IN ZAHLE AREA IT IS REGULAR LEBANESE ARMY TROOPS WHICH ARE UNDER ATTACK FROM UNKNOWN FORCES, WHICH ARMY AT LEAST BELIEVES CONTAIN SYRIAN MILITARY DISGUISED IN SAIQA GARB. INVOLVEMENT OF SYRIAN "VOLUNTEERS" IN COUNTRY IS LIKE WAVING RED FLAG IN FACES OF MARONITE LEADERS HERE WHO REMEMBER COMPARABLE SYRIAN INVOLVEMENT IN 1958. YET WE BELIEVE THE MORE ASAD IS THWARTED IN PLAYING A RESPONSIBLE POLITICAL ROLE IN LEBANESE CRISIS THE MORE HE WILL BE TEMPTED TO USE INDIRECT MILITARY MEANS.)
GODLEY

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